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Visions of sugarplums

The *Nutcracker* put on by Heritage Ballet dazzled audiences last weekend at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. See more photos on page 2. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*

Dysart looks into options for future waste disposal

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It's a suitable time for Dysart to consider how waste management services can better cater to taxpayers.

Andrew Buzzza and Perry Larochelle of JP2G Consultants Inc. reviewed Dysart's waste management service. John Watson,

the town's environmental manager, gave an overview of that review during a special council meeting Dec. 5.

Any site reconfigurations would likely be in place for the next 25 to 30 years.

"So we're making potentially substantial changes that are going to be long lasting for our community," Watson said.

Dysart has a footprint of about 14,000 square kilometres with as many as 7,300

households. There is no curbside garbage collection, but there are five operating disposal sites.

"This informs our delivery of waste management services to our ratepayers," Watson said.

The municipality hosts a very extensive drop off program, including two-stream recycling at all sites. Two landfills take scrap metal and appliances.

Tires are accepted at the Haliburton and Harcourt landfills.

Construction and demolition waste is accepted at three of the five sites.

In 2022, Dysart managed 8,866 metric tonnes of waste.

"In terms of the vehicle counts during COVID, we did see a big spike in the

see HARCOURT page 3

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Imagination comes alive

Heritage Ballet's annual production of *The Nutcracker*, performed by youth dancers and adult cast members, took place on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion to nearly sold out audiences. /TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*





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ATAC social highlights importance of movement

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Aging Together as Community (ATAC) presented their holiday social this past Sunday to encourage connection and offer a look into some of the programs that keep minds and bodies moving in the Highlands.

Under the theme "Stay Upright and Be Active", the social included a Tai Chi demonstration and speakers from Sit to Fit bodies, BE Health, and the Alzheimer Society.

With 55 in attendance, organizers were pleased with the enthusiasm that filled the Haliburton United Church for the three-hour social on Dec. 2.

"Today really combined a lot of useful information around the importance of movement and exercise at the same time as the socialization aspect when people get together in a group," said organizer Bonnie Roe. "It was just a snipping of each program to bring awareness to the community of what is out there and the importance of both movement and cognitive stimulation."

Roe said it was an excellent way to send off ATAC's 2023 year.

Minds in Motion with the Alzheimer Society

Jennifer Stubbart and Melissa-anne Foster are coordinators for the Minds in Motion program in the County with the Alzheimer Society.

"The program is for anybody who has any form of memory loss with their care

partner to attend together," Stubbart said.

It incorporates one hour of exercise with one hour of cognitive stimulation and social interaction for eight weeks at a time.

"It's a great time. We leave the memory loss at the door, we come in, we have fun, socialize and do trivia, brain games, bingo, anything that gets people laughing and active," she said.

The program has been in operation since 2017.

"We've had such a great response. The groups are getting bigger and bigger," Stubbart said.

Minds in Motion runs once a week for eight weeks. It will next be in Haliburton County in March.

Stubbart has worked for the Alzheimer Society for 20 years.

"It's my passion. We love what we do and have a lot of fun. It's really rewarding. A lot of people don't get to go to work and say they get to hang out with their family, because they really do become family," Stubbart said.

ATAC conference

Aging Together as Community will host its first full-day conference at Pine-stone Resort on Jan. 27, 2024 called Inspiring Creativity, Empowering Change.

"As we move into 2024, we're so excited about our conference. We'll have some amazing keynote speakers and there's an intergenerational component which will show how younger generations view aging," Roe said.

More information about ATAC's New Year conference will be available in the coming weeks.

Nicotine pouches to be restricted by Health Canada

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Local public health officials were poised to direct to Ottawa their concerns about youth and flavoured nicotine pouches.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit staff were set to send a letter to Health Canada, advocating for a change in regulations pertaining to the sale of the flavoured nicotine product.

"Essentially, there was a loophole that allowed these nicotine pouches to be sold at non-pharmacies, any location, (to) any aged people," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the district's medical officer of health.

Zonnic brand nicotine pouches were approved for sale July 18 by Health Canada. The product doesn't contain tobacco and because the pouches contain less than four milligrams of nicotine each and are not inhaled, they didn't fall under any

existing federal or provincial tobacco or vaping legislation.

Bocking said during the unit's meeting Dec. 7 that the federal Health Minister Mark Holland has since acknowledged the problem loophole and that the regulations will be changed.

"They recognize that it's not appropriate," she said. "They're quite concerned about how it happened."

So the letter, which had been written, wasn't sent.

Such is life sometimes.

"Maybe telepathy worked," quipped Bob Crate, the board's Northumberland representative.

"So it's no longer going to be sold in grocery stores," said Cecil Ryall, Haliburton's representative on the board.

"They have to change the regulations, but it should no longer be sold in convenience stores and grocery stores," Bocking said.

Half of local COVID-19 deaths were in the last few weeks: Bocking

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Some people living under the umbrella of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit may have gotten tired of frequent talk about respiratory illness season.

But that frequency of message underscores the importance of keeping COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus top of mind, said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the medical officer of health at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

She gave an overview of respiratory illness season thus far when health board members met in Coburg Dec. 7.

Infection rates in much of Ontario is in the moderately higher range compared to last fall when infections happened earlier and more intensely.

"Moderately higher means that our hospitals and emergency departments are seeing an increase and they're feeling that increase in terms of visits for respiratory illness, respiratory infections," Bocking said.

She said that's being driven by a number of viruses and varied age groups of patients being more susceptible to severe

illness.

COVID-19 and flu cases are expected to continue to increase over the next three weeks. It's anticipated that the peak of the current COVID-19 wave will happen over the holidays.

As for local COVID-19 activity so far in the 2023-24 respiratory season, there have been 31 outbreaks with 39 hospital admissions and 13 deaths.

The majority of those infections were in patients over the age of 70 years, she said.

"It's certainly impacting people of older age more than other age groups," she said.

There have been 12 lab-confirmed cases of the flu but no hospital admissions. That's expected to change over the next few weeks.

In 2023, there were 31 deaths due to COVID-19. Almost half of that tally happened in the last few weeks.

"When a COVID-19 wave increases, and we are seeing that in the wave right now, then we expect there to be hospital admissions and deaths associated with it, unfortunately," Bocking said.

Now is the time to get a flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine, she said.

"And that's the message for all ages," she said.

Harcourt may become transfer station

from page 1

number of people visiting our sites," he said. "Our 2023 vehicle counts are likely going to be on par, if maybe one per cent more than we experienced in 2022."

One of the things to keep in mind when looking ahead at the future of Dysart's waste disposal is that none of the landfills has a scale system that would enable the municipality to charge users per metric tonne disposed. That's as opposed to a visual inspection at arrival and charging by cubic yard of waste.

The township has socked away \$20,000 every year in a reserve fund over the last number of years to pay for a scale system, he said. So far, there's \$120,000 in that reserve fund earmarked for scales.

Starting in 2026, Dysart won't be able to mix residential and commercial Blue Box refuse.

"Dysart council will need to decide whether it wishes to provide Blue Box services to the commercial sector," Watson said. "There's no regulatory obligation to do so."

If council decides to make such a move, it has to be figured out if the handling and processing of Blue Box materials will be paid for through taxes or by way of a user pays system.

There's a plethora of issues to consider when surveying waste management, from composting and yard waste, consolidating dumped materials to one landfill as opposed to two or three, and what types of refuse goes where.

The Harcourt Landfill is nearing the end of its life, he said. It's anticipated that the province will demand Dysart transforms it to a transfer station.

"Most likely this coming year in 2024," Watson said.

That conversion will entail infrastructure changes like adding possibly four more collection bays for materials to be picked up for trucking.

An option for the West Guilford Landfill is for Dysart to make it exclusively for the use of the commercial sector to drop off garbage and Blue Box materials and for individual residents to dispose of construction and demolition waste.

"The scale system will be installed there," he said. "The ratepayers dropping off construction, demolition waste will be weighed in, drop off their materials, and weigh out. And they'd pay based on the metric tonne."

Watson said the coin needed to reconfigure that landfill site could be as much as \$1-million.

"This figure is very back-of-a-napkin, for sure," he said.

Questions about next steps for the municipality's waste management include whether the township plans to offer Blue Box services to the commercial sector starting January 2026 and, if so, what sites would accept commercial Blue Box; where a scale system may be installed; which site(s) should accept construction and demolition waste; and whether a mattress and boxspring recycling program be implemented at Haliburton Landfill.

Dysart council deferred a decision about the mattress recycling program at its Nov. 28 meeting.

"We're under no time crunch," Watson said. "Just that we want to have the program in place in the new year. It's something we can include it in budget as well."

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Christmas wishes in Wilberforce

Eden Unbehaun, left, and her sister Arcadia tell Santa Claus what they would like for Christmas at the gathering held at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre held after the parade in Wilberforce on the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 10. /NATE SMELLE Staff



Jade Stickwood and her daughter Anna share a moment outside the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre before heading in to see Santa.



Santa Clause waves to those gathered in Wilberforce for the parade in his honour.



One of the 101 Dalmations gets into the Christmas spirit.



Members of the Algonquin Shrine Club spread Christmas cheer.



The Wilberforce Agricultural Society paraded through Wilberforce on horseback.

Trillium Lakelands board recognizes staff contributions

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Innovation and adaptability are a teacher's assets in a classroom.

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board recognized those prized qualities in staff members during its Dec. 5 public meeting.

"Innovation is the practice of developing and implementing new and relevant services or systems," said Wes Hahn, the board's education director, in a press release.

"Leadership is a set of behaviours used to help people align collective directions, execute strategic plans, and continually renew and improve an organization."

The school board's new Director's Recognition for Innovation and Leadership Award celebrates individuals who have combined the characteristics of innovation and leadership to advance the goals of improving student learning, achievement, and fostering student and staff well-being.

The award will be presented at each monthly board meeting.

December's recipient is Dwayne Raglin, the board's cybersecurity and network infrastructure manager.

Raglin has led a small team of dedicated individuals through a thorough review of board cybersecurity practices and the implementation of innovative solutions.

"Raglin's innovation and leadership has contributed to the establishment of a learning and working environment which

is safe, equitable, and open to all, and also promotes excellence in learning outcomes for our students," according to a press release.

Hahn also recognized three individuals with a Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) BRAVO! Award. They honour exemplary work in all aspects of marketing and engagement, communications, and school public relations each year.

CACE is the only Canada-wide awards program specifically designed to recognize excellence in school board communications. TLDSB put its work forward in the Communications Project category.

"Communications projects are full, complete projects that have a comprehensive, strategic communications plan with clear evidence of objective project/program evaluation," Hahn said.

TLDSB was presented with an Award of Distinction at the 2023 BRAVO! Awards Gala on Oct. 29.

Congratulations to Carolynne Bull, communications manager, Sinead Fegan, communications officer, and e-learning design technician Bryce Huskison.

Hahn highlighted the recent achievements and other work being done across the system to support the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, including results from the annual parent/guardians fall survey, the creation of mental health champions in every TLDSB school, as well as the recent work of the G7 Student Senate who will be creating supports for student mental health.

Each of the superintendents of learning shared data from their 2022-2023 focus

“

Leadership is a set of behaviours used to help people align collective directions, execute strategic plans, and continually renew and improve an organization.”

— Wes Hahn TLDSB's education director

schools with trustees.

Focus schools are identified schools where the administrator and superintendent explore advances that can be made at the school level. The superintendent works alongside the administration and teachers to look at their school data and provide suggestions and resources that they can use to advance student achievement at their school.

Tanya Fraser, acting associate superintendent of learning, shared the Mental Health and Addiction Strategy, which focuses on caring conditions for learning; social emotional learning skills; mental

health knowledge; mental health support; and strong service pathways.

Fraser also noted that there was a shift last school year from student success and attendance counsellors (SSACs) to mental health counsellors, as well as the implementation of a multi-tiered system of support.

Tim Ellis, superintendent of business services, shared updates from Business Services such as the modification in school budgets to reflect local need, carbon neutral changes that have been made, and the opening of the child-care centre at Glen Orchard Public School.

Traci Hubbert, superintendent of human resources services, provided trustees with some highlights from the department that included the work done to reach union agreements and ensuring staff are in schools to support in times of high staff absenteeism.

Jay MacJanet, superintendent of learning, presented trustees with the Math Achievement Action Plan, which is a directive from the Ministry of Education Bill 98, Better Schools and Students Outcomes Act, 2023.

MacJanet highlighted the three priorities:

Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation, including the intentional use of proven strategies that support academic math achievement;

Engaging in ongoing leaning on math content knowledge for teaching;

Knowing the math learner, and ensuring math tasks and interventions, and supports are relevant and responsive.

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir



Underneath the tree

I KNOW SANTA brings gifts, made by Elves, from the North Pole and offers a free delivery service to the homes all kids on Earth.

And I know the Grinch says the holidays are about a little bit more than what comes from a store.

Let's be honest with ourselves, though.

Presents have been part of our society's celebrations for millennia.

They're a good way to show appreciation for loved ones.

It's always nice to receive something you perhaps didn't need, but wanted.

It's also a time for hosting parties and get-togethers filled with delicious food and drinks.

How many people do you know that travel this time of year? Maybe you're one of them.

Everything starts to add up pretty quickly.

Bank accounts in December can look more like the Charlie Brown sapling and less like the Griswold tree, if you know what I mean.

It's why many local charities and food banks ramp up projects to account for higher need of their generous services in December.

During health measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many local businesses were closed on and off for three years.

Canadians spent \$84.4 billion on online shopping in 2020.

You've heard it before, but here I go again.

Those health measures are over. Stores are open.

Shop here for gifts this December. Local businesses need you, and we need them.

And 'tis the season for giving back.

If you live or own property in the area, I'm sure you have a desire for our businesses to succeed.

They're owned by the people next to you in line at the post office, in the same aisle of the grocery store, and sitting a table over at the restaurants, after all.

Stats Canada said one to three per cent of all businesses in each sector in Canada closed in October alone.

That's about 24,000 storefronts that permanently locked their doors in one month alone.

Ladies' Shopping Night in Haliburton was last Thursday, Dec. 7.

Participating stores had deals for their shoppers from 5 to 8 p.m., and many offered treats and refreshments too.

It was a social night for those who attended, but it was also a great way for the community to show support the downtown Haliburton businesses.

So many had bags of gifts in tow, exclaiming, "I got all my Christmas shopping

done!"

The same goes for the countless artisan holiday markets that have taken place over the past few weeks.

Online shopping might seem like the convenient way to go this Christmas, but with it, you're missing out on the experience of getting to meet a new artist or maker.

The gift you give won't have an added feeling of love and appreciation from the store owner you bought it from.

We have a long way to go until Haliburton County is back in it's busy summer season.

Let's help give our local economy a little boost this December by shopping locally.



vivian collings

Editorial



A little "Charlie Brown" Pine Tree.

by Tammy Nas

The new neighbour

HE HAD never bothered before. For Owen, the holiday season was no holiday at all. Just another day, another week, another winter. So when Molly suggested he put up some decorations, he wasn't sure he wanted to do it.

That's the thing about new friends – or dare I say those who are more than simply friends. They can change your life in unexpected ways.

Molly had come into Owen's life at a time when the last thing he had expected was a relationship with the opposite sex. He had grown from boy to man in a very male environment. Surrounded by brothers and boy cousins as he grew up, Owen's life had consisted of a simple diet of hard work most of the year with hunting and ice fishing thrown in during slower days in the winter. But he was never idle.

When not spending time with other men both at work and leisure, Owen liked to watch old westerns and continue building his garage. He had been at it for the last five years. He told everyone it would be finished one day but he was not in a rush. It was something to keep him busy in his off time.

When his mum died, everything in Owen's life seemed to change. After the funeral, his dad suddenly announced his intention to move in with one of the brothers to be closer to other relatives. The old homestead was sold and Owen was pretty well on his own. No more Sunday dinners with his parents and he felt strange driving past their old house and seeing all the changes the new owners made.

But he carried on. Because what else could he do except keep busy? That had always been his answer to turmoil and uncertainty. Keep busy.

So when Molly moved in down the road, it was Owen who sold her firewood. Then it was Owen who fixed her broken gate. She was also on her own.

It had started with a cup of coffee in Molly's kitchen. He had been

impressed with the slice of apple pie she had offered. More slices followed. Somehow, despite their different backgrounds, they always had plenty to talk about.

One day he decided to go out on a limb and ask her to the dance at the Legion in town. He was pleasantly surprised when she accepted.

They had had fun that night. While not the best dancer in the county, Owen had managed to avoid stepping on her feet and she had complimented him on his great sense of rhythm. He wasn't used to compliments. It felt good. After that they went to more dances and more coffee and pie was consumed at Molly's kitchen table.

A few weeks before Christmas, Owen had helped Molly cut down a tree by the side of the road and set it up in her living room. She had suggested they get a tree for him at the same time but he had hesitated. What did he need a tree for? But she had seemed so taken with the idea that he went along with it.

Molly said she had a few extra lights and hanging things he could have and she even helped him deck out the tree. Owen had to admit it cheered up the place on those dark nights. He liked to stretch out on the couch watching a movie while the tree's lights glowed softly.

Well if he had a tree and Molly had a tree then he figured he had better buy her a present to put under it. Of course he had no idea what to buy. As a child he used to give his mum a new apron every Christmas and she had always made a big fuss when she unwrapped it. Maybe an apron would work for Molly. After all, she made those great pies.

Molly thanked him for the apron and gave him a winter hat with flaps that came down over his ears to keep them warm. They had a nice turkey dinner in her kitchen and watched a Christmas movie. As he drove home later, he thought it had been his best Christmas in a long time.

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points of view

Oh Christmas tree

THE OTHER day Jenn suggested that we ought to get another real Christmas tree this year. So, I went out for a drive to price them in and around town and when I came back, I was a little conflicted.

"Where's the tree?" she said.

"I've got some good news and some bad news," I said.

"What's the bad news?" she asked.

"We're probably going to have to save up for another year or two, if we want to buy a real tree," I replied.

"They're fairly pricey this year."

"And the good news?"

"To the right buyer, that big spruce on our front lawn is probably worth more than our house," I yelled.

"Put the axe down," she then ordered.

She was right as always. Given the recent rise in Christmas tree prices, that spruce would only appreciate in value. Heck, if we just sit on it until I turn 65, I'll probably be able to retire in style.

Still, in this economy, owning a tree like that can be a burden.

Which is why, later that day, Jenn was forced to say, "You can't watch that tree forever. Besides, no one's going to steal it."

"You say that now," I muttered, as I momentarily took my eyes off the tree. "But wait till people get a little more of the Christmas spirit. It'll be mayhem, I tell you."

She then pointed out that our front lawn tree was more than 20 feet high and probably a little too difficult to remove without us noticing.

"You're right," I said. "I'm going to the washroom. Let me know immediately, if you hear anyone yelling 'Timber! Or if you see Christmas carollers carrying axes..."

That was a few days ago and, as of this moment, the spruce on our front lawn is still there. But I am not holding out hope. Also, I really can't wait till Jenn gets back from work so I can finally go to the washroom again.

Mark my words, if the price of Christmas trees continues to rise, there is soon going to be a Green Rush in the County. Before long, people from outside the area, will come up prospecting for spruce, pines and even firs. Next thing you know this town will be filled with saloons and sarsaparilla.

But I digress. The other day Jenn once again asked the question that I was hoping I would never hear.

"So when are we going to buy a tree?" she asked.

She did not like it when I let her know I had a line on a used one – even when I explained it was only a year old and only decorated by a little old lady who didn't own cats.

It turns out, the heart wants what the heart wants, and this weekend, Jenn and I decided that I should listen to her and so we are going to continue the wonderful Christmas tradition of going out to purchase a dead tree that you can take home for your cats to tip over.

And frankly, despite the high price, I wouldn't have it any other way.

And when I told her as much, she applauded.

I smiled at her and winked.

But honestly, I just wish she would been OK with me just letting me take a bough.



steve
galea

Loon Tales

The Principles of an Economic Charter of Rights

An economic charter could keep Canada from drowning in debt

THE LATEST economic and fiscal outlook from Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) indicates that the federal deficit will grow more than previously projected, up to \$46.5 billion in the current fiscal year. The PBO also said we'll continue to run deficits for the remainder of this decade.

In fact, according to a recent report by the Fraser Institute, Canada's overall debt is expected to grow by more than \$140 billion over the next five years. That means the government will pay a lot more in interest to service our ballooning national debt, in much the same way that many Canadians are paying more interest today for mortgages, credit lines and car loans.

The question we need to ask is why are we racking up this enormous debt? And why are we still generating massive deficits year after year, especially now that the pandemic is behind us?

If the reason we're running up the debt is to inject a powerful amount of financial stimulus to get our economy going again, it's clearly not working. And if it's not to get our economy working, then what is the government spending all this borrowed money on?

When government spending goes off the rails from time to time, the opposition often vows to restore fiscal sanity and return to balanced budgets. But if the opposition is successful and forms the government, there's nothing that prevents them from continuing to run deficits.

In other words, we have no effective checks on limiting government spending.

Why does this matter?

It matters because fiscal mismanagement directly impacts our standard of living and the living standards of future generations. It can cause inflation, which corrodes the value of our savings and makes consumer staples like food, fuel and clothing more expensive while putting a big dent in consumer spending.

But if we had an Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, which

required the government to pay down debt, balance the budget and reduce spending on overhead, then we would have guardrails in place to keep government from spending recklessly and driving us deeper into debt.

The two key charter responsibilities imposed upon the government, with clear-cut percentages and dates attached, would be the following:

Eliminate the debt and balance the budget – a commitment to get our fiscal house in order and reduce our national debt by 5 percent per year for 20 years so that we will be debt-free within two decades.

Cut red tape and over-regulation – a commitment to reduce government overhead by 5 percent per year over a ten-year period.

An economic charter of rights and responsibilities would protect the pocket-books of Canadians by preventing governments from mismanaging the economic affairs of the nation in much the same way that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms prevents overzealous govern-

ments from trampling on the democratic rights of Canadians.

The fact is our country is drowning in debt.

We need to cut spending, return to balanced budgets, and start paying down our debt.

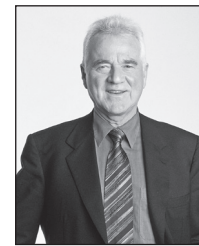
An economic charter of rights and responsibilities is a powerful tool to accomplish that – not just for today, but for generations to come.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canadians, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Author Bio

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com



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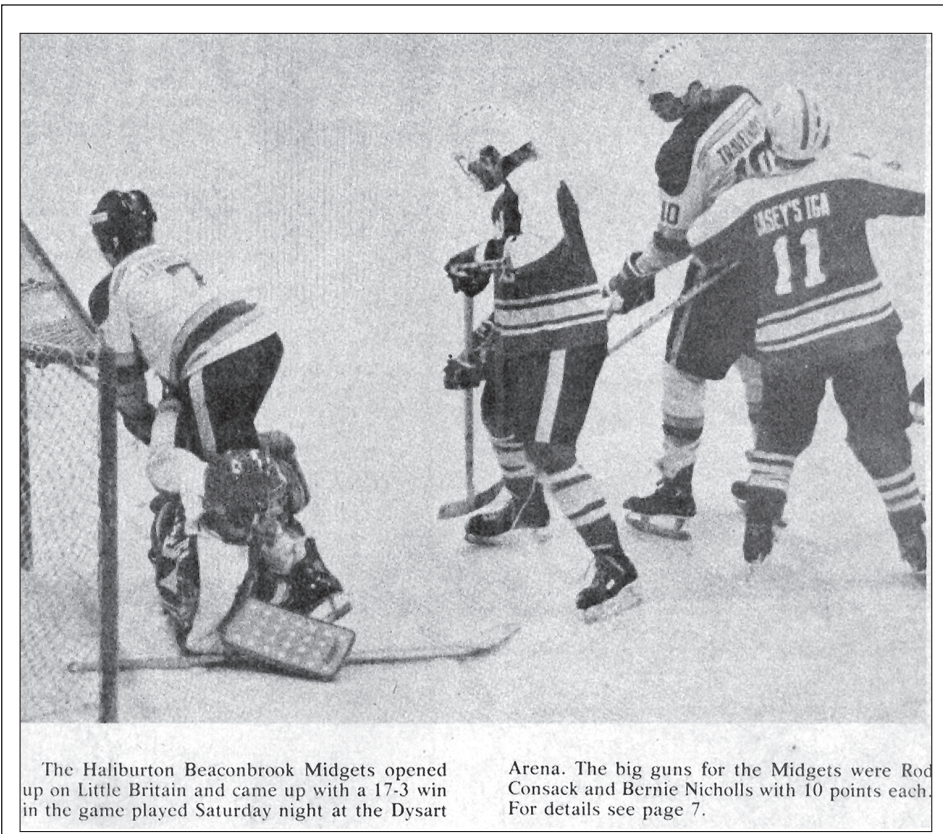
Principles



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The Haliburton Beaconbrook Midgets opened up on Little Britain and came up with a 17-3 win in the game played Saturday night at the Dysart Arena. The big guns for the Midgets were Rod Consack and Bernie Nicholls with 10 points each. For details see page 7.

pic of the past

On Nov. 24, 1976 this was the front page photo of the *Haliburton County Echo*. The Haliburton Beaconbrook Midgets opened up on Little Britain and came up with a 17-3 win in the game played the previous Saturday night at the Dysart Arena. The big guns for the Midgets were Rod Consack and Bernie Nicholls with 10 points each. /FILE

letters to the editor

Choosing a name to be proud of

To the Editor,

Over the last week I have spent a good deal of time trying to understand why Dysart et al council chose to rescind the previous council's decision to rename Sam Slick Park in Haliburton. As was highlighted in *The Echo* Dec. 5, the park is named for a fictional character in *The Clockmaker*, a book by T.C. Haliburton, which includes racist and misogynistic language.

Members of the municipality's Cultural Resources Committee made a compelling case for changing the name of the park – informed by the work of local high school students – and relocating the current plaque to the museum.

What could be wrong with this suggestion? It seems council's main concern is that renaming the park would erase history, but I don't think that's how we should be viewing the practice of naming landmarks. The names we choose for our buildings and parks and monuments should be representing the best of us, the things we are proud of, what inspires and guides us into the future. The students' suggestion of Gidaaki Park, the Anishinaabemowin word for this area meaning "high lands," sounds perfect to me. I hope that council takes another look at this decision and embraces the opportunity to choose a name we can all feel good about.

Jenn Watt
Haliburton

Call for a reversal

To to the Editor,

The Dec. 5 *Echo* featured a news item, and three opinion pieces ... an editorial, a column and a lengthy, detailed "Letter to the Editor" regarding Dysart et al's rejection of the recommendations of the cultural resource committee concerning a proposed name change to Sam Slick Park. The latter three of these voiced serious displeasure over a decision that should have been a very, very easy administrative correction.

The members of the Dysart et al Council put their names forward last year to represent the citizens of the municipality. To listen, to consult, to gather and analyze appropriate data... to responsibly lead. The majority of our citizens take pride in this municipality and have done their part: they elected Council, they pay their taxes, they obey the laws. Many of them contribute to the vibrant fabric of the community with significant donations of time and money. In return, they expect their municipal Council to advocate on their behalf... to be bold, to be creative and, again, to listen. A timely reversal of this error is undeniably in order.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

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NOVEMBER 17

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Community Fills-a-Cruiser

Auxiliary Ontario Provincial Police Members of the Haliburton County detachment stopped for a photo with Haliburton Foodland owner Brad Park during the annual Fill-a-Cruiser event on Saturday, Dec. 9. Other participating stores were Todd's Independent Grocer, Easton's Valu-Mart, and Dollo's Foodland, and each store made up bags of items needed by local food banks for purchase at checkout. The bags were used to fill OPP cruisers and were then taken to local food banks. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Lunch with Santa

Haliburton Foodland offered a visit with Santa and free lunch on Saturday, Dec. 9. Bray Woodward has the chance to tell Santa what he's hoping for for Christmas. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Members of the Haliburton BMO branch hosted a bake sale on Ladies' Shopping Night.



Shopping night smiles

Natalia Brown from Naebr Design was selling letterpress printed cards and stationery at the SIRCH Artisan Market during the Haliburton BIA Ladies' Shopping Night on Thursday, Nov. 7. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Slow progress on the physician recruitment front

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

Since the Minden ER closed its doors in June of this year, the hot topic of physician recruitment has been a buzz term in the Haliburton Highlands.

When Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) made the decision to close down the Minden ER site, they alluded to a shortage of staff as one of their main reasons.

The county of Haliburton currently has Wendy Welch in the role of physician recruitment coordinator; a role that has been fairly quiet to the public aside from the occasional presentation to county council. Physician recruitment falls within the county's economic development department.

On their website, a tab through the My Haliburton Highlands web page, the recruitment page is filled with incentives and objectives for bringing physicians to the community. This includes the Haliburton County Return of Service Incentive, which totals \$25,000 a year for up to six years for full-time practice commitment, the Northern Rural Recruitment and Retention (NRRR) program, totaling \$91,000 over four years, and the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for family doctors, where physicians could receive \$40,000 in loan forgiveness.

The website also notes that there are currently eight full time physicians in the region, and they are seeking

at least five more to join the team, in order to support the 10,600 patients, and the 1400 on the waitlist.

In a report to council on Oct. 25, Welch outlined the initiatives that are underway in an attempt to reach this goal, such as housing the county has secured in both Minden and Haliburton to offer accommodations for physicians. The report included additional fees the county will include in the 2024 operational budget to ensure the homes are cleaned and maintained for physicians.

Welch also outlined a series of recruitment fairs and conferences the county has attended in an attempt to highlight the region, but noted trends that have been observed through the recruitment process, including the fact that "Physicians appear more interested in learning about locum opportunities and not settling into a community," read the report.

The report goes on to highlight an ad the county ran with the British Medical Journal, which ran for five weeks, with 22 physicians submitting their CV. From that number though, only half were eligible based on the country they received their medical training from.

At this time, only applicants from the UK, Ireland, Australia, and the United States are eligible to practice medicine in Canada.

It was noted in the report that Welch intends to follow through with a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), which is necessary when bringing in physicians who are not permanent residents of Canada.

The county must show proof of attempting to hire in

Canada, followed by candidates visiting the community for an assessment, followed by a formal application to be completed by the employer; which would come at a cost to the county of \$1000 per applicant. These items will be noted in the 2024 budget in the works.

This process was recently completed by the nearby Kinmount and District Family Health Centre's Foundation, and was met with success when they recruited Dr. Lesslie Ponraja to their team full time earlier in the year.

The Echo reached out to Welch to inquire about any updates on this report since it was presented to council in October, and Welch declined the opportunity for interview, noting that no changes have been made since. "The report is still accurate," she said.

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Finding our place in history

BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Staff Reporter

Did you know that the Haliburton County Public Library provides free access to Ancestry.com?

That's right. If you log on to the library Wi-Fi, you can access databases that will help you uncover your family's history that would otherwise cost you nearly four hundred dollars a year.

Moreover, you can receive help from a professional genealogist when you attend the library's "Afternoon with Ancestors", led by Adele Espina from the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group.

The drop-in program takes place on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the Dysart branch and on the second and fourth Tuesday at the Minden branch.

During the session, you will have the opportunity to ask questions about navigating your family's history and to be guided through the multiple databases that are available to you.

"It's like piecing together a historical puzzle," Espina said. "It can be complicated and time-consuming but is often extremely rewarding."

In addition to online databases, Espina also has a

wealth of knowledge on local history and access to resources that might be difficult to find, like local cemetery books, yearbooks, school records, newspaper clippings, and more.

In learning about our family's past, we find an opportunity to foster a deeper sense of self – an understanding of who we are, where we come from, what our ancestors have done, and the trials and triumphs they had to overcome.

"It can be about finding our place in the world and giving meaning to our, and our ancestors, lives," Espina said. "Belonging can be a place, but it is also a feeling and an understanding of our connection to a wider history."

This holiday season, while we spend time with our family or others that we hold dear to our hearts, let us be curious about the origins of the special relationships and places in our lives. Share stories, ask questions, and take photos – we all go down in history.

The Haliburton County Public Library is truly so much more than a place to check out books. They offer an endless list of services that benefit our community. For more information about upcoming events, programs, and resources go to haliburtonlibrary.ca.

When we ask questions, collaborate, and stay curious, the possibilities of what we can learn and achieve are endless.

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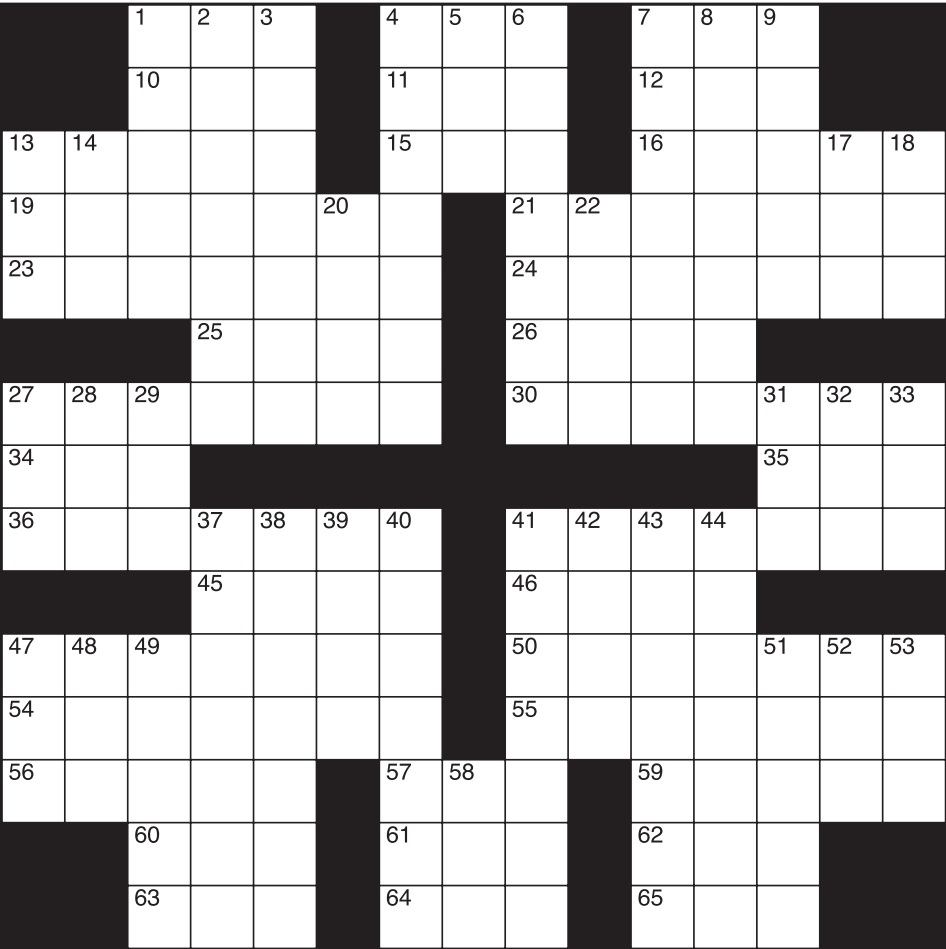
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm
- 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: __ philosophical
- 11. Crony
- 12. Political action committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative
- 16. Exclamation of disgust
- 19. Action of connecting
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
- 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male heir
- 26. Supplemented with difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases
- 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect it
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is grown
- 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle
- 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women
- 6. Fell down
- 7. Clothing
- 8. Dishwasher detergent brand
- 9. Former French republic
- 13. Single lens reflex
- 14. Men's fashion accessory
- 17. Consumed
- 18. Marry
- 20. __ up: intensifies
- 22. Body of water
- 27. People of southern Benin
- 28. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 29. Snag
- 31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
- 33. Car mechanics group
- 37. Brought up to snuff
- 38. __ faire: Economic approach
- 39. Phil __, former CIA
- 40. Affixed
- 41. Period of adolescence
- 42. Substance
- 43. Danced
- 44. Baked without its shell
- 47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
- 48. Satisfaction
- 49. Balkans river
- 51. Christmas carols
- 52. Partner to tonic
- 53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
- 58. Swiss river

Answers on page 12



Skating and Santa

Rotary hosted its eighth annual Christmas and Skating party at AJ LaRue Arena and the Royal Canadian Legion on Friday, Dec. 8. The festive activities included skating, pizza, presents, photos with Santa, games, and more. Attendants were also treated to live music from the Haliburton Wind Symphony band and had the chance to win a turkey. It was a night filled with laughter, play, and holiday cheer. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff



All the fixings

Rowyn Foster, left, and Sandy Miller have fun at the HCPL booth at SIRCH's first Repair Cafe of the year on Sunday, Dec. 3 held at the SIRCH Bistro in Haliburton. The Repair Cafe gives the community the opportunity to bring in items that may not be in complete working order to see if one of SIRCH's volunteers can fix it, free of charge. This Repair Cafe saw 60 repairs, and SIRCH thanks the community for all generous donations that allow for this program to continue. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff





Notice
(Applicant – Parrott/Sykes)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-Law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance for road along the shore of **Glamor Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 30, Concession 10, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan 19R-10871 made by **Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc., completed March 29, 2023.** (Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Part of the Shore Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 5th day of December, 2023.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981



Vendor Dan Ball, selling his hand-crafted items at the Wilberforce Heritage Guild's annual Christmas craft sale. / Photos submitted by Barb Schofield



Vendor Peggy Bishop, selling her preserves at the Wilberforce Heritage Guild's annual Christmas craft sale.

Wilberforce Heritage Guild annual Christmas

MICHAEL RILEY
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Wilberforce Heritage Guild had it's annual Christmas craft sale on Dec. 2 at the Lloyd Watson Centre at 2249 Loop Road in downtown Wilberforce. Organizer Barb Schofield comments on this event, saying it was very successful with dozens of vendors and sales tables, with all funds raised going toward the upkeep of the Red Cross Museum Historic House, its events and displays.

Schofield says that the 2023 Holiday Craft Sale at the Lloyd Watson Centre in downtown Wilberforce is put on every year on the first Saturday of December by the Wilberforce Heritage Guild. She says that the money raised from the rental of vendor tables supports the upkeep of the Red Cross Museum Historic House, its events and displays.

The Wilberforce Heritage Guild is a registered charitable foundation that was enacted to preserve and restore historic sites and collect and display artifacts related to the former Monmouth Township history, now Highlands East and its surrounding area. The restoration of the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost was their first project back in 1991. More information can be found at www.redcrossoutpost.org.

Schofield says that two tables were used for fundraising efforts by the local foodbank, and they offered a variety of items including many Christmas decorations, with some purses, jewelry and more.

"Their sales were by donation and this was popular with many, including kids buying gifts for parents and siblings," she says.

There was a great assortment of wares at this year's sale to satisfy everyone's Christmas shopping appetite. Lunch was provided by the Wilberforce Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

"Happy groups were seen gathered in the lounge enjoying the lunch catered by the Ladies Auxiliary from Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 624," she says.

According to Schofield, Saturday was a very successful day with 32 vendors and 41 sales tables, despite the snowy weather conditions on Saturday morning.

"Items for sale ranged from baked goods and preserves, hand crafted clothing and toys, and table linens. There was a large selection of Christmas decorations and unique gifts, as well as jewelry, candles and fragrances to name a few," she says. "I'm not sure of the total attendance, but the vendors I spoke with were satisfied with the amount of their sales."

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From left, Jill Lee, Linda Ladd and current president Linda Cameron with the Wilberforce Heritage Guild at their table at their Christmas craft sale on Dec. 2 at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. According to Guild member Barb Schofield, they were promoting their museum by selling their book "Mustard Plasters and Handcarts," written by one of the early nurses to work at the Outpost. "Each year starting on the Easter weekend, we raffle a quilt that our members hand quilted, to raise money for the museum," she says. "The quilt on display in the photo is our quilt from 2023, on loan from the winner."

Duchene celebrates 1,000 games

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Staff Reporter

Matt Duchene has officially played 1000 games in the NHL, and with that milestone, he has taken the time to reflect on how he got to where he is. “Being from Haliburton has been a huge contributor to me making the NHL, and then getting to 1000 games,” he said to the Echo. “I’m grateful to be from there for so many reasons.”

The 32-year old from Haliburton was drafted third overall to the Colorado Avalanche in 2009, and made his mark in the NHL right off the bat. After eight years, Duchene was traded to the Ottawa Senators followed by the Columbus Blue Jackets briefly, before settling in Nashville between 2019 to 2023.

He played his 1000th game wearing a Dallas Stars jersey, where he landed in July of this year. And while Duchene is happy to be where he is, he can’t help but look back on how far he’s come. “Haliburton is such a hockey crazy town,” he laughed. “Without my friends and family and our great community, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Matt Duchene celebrates his 1000th NHL game on Dec. 8 with the Dallas Stars. Duchene celebrates with his wife, Ashley, and his son Beau. /Photo submitted



Dogs and cats
The Huskies stand while Ella Gooley sings *O Canada* before their home game against the Pickering Panthers on Saturday, Dec. 9.. The Huskies won the game 3-2. / TIM YANO Special to the *Echo*



The Huskies came out victorious after a nail-biting game.



Patrick Saini, #75, scores the first goal of the game in first period.



Ty Petrou, #94, scores second goal of game and celebrates with teammates.

To the wall: ice climbing at Haliburton Forest

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Staff Reporter

It's a sport that pushes you to your limits, that defies gravity, that leaves you feeling a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Ice climbing has been a winter staple in Haliburton County for years, but is only just starting to really gain popularity amongst locals and visitors alike.

But not all ice climbing experiences are the same. Haliburton Forest is setting out to create an experience that will feel supportive, safe, and memorable. "What sets this experience apart from the rest is the one-on-one component of the session," said Tegan Legge, the general manager of the tourism recreation department at the Forest, "this is an intimate experience that allows people to feel really good once they complete the climb."

Ice climbing was previously offered at the Forest through Yours Outdoors, with Lorne Foisy as the lead. With Foisy looking to take a step back in the business, the future of climbing in the county was on thin ice.

Luckily, Foisy offered the staff at Haliburton Forest first dibs on purchasing the gear that he had been using, and presented the opportunity for the facilitators at the Forest to take the lead on re-establishing the program.

Angie Grant, the group experiences and sales coordinator at the Forest said that offering ice climbing programs in-house will allow for the program to continue to become established. "I'm just so happy we are keeping this cool experience in Haliburton County," she said.



Cameron Ferguson takes a break on the West Shore wall during an ice climbing session last season. Haliburton Forest is hoping the conditions are ready by the new year. /Photo submitted

The program is offered at the West Shore Crag, which is a location participants will be shuttled to directly from

Base Camp and the Forest. The natural ice wall offers opportunities for all experience levels to participate in the

climb. "We will have gear available for those aged 12 and up," said Grant, "but we intend to offer the program to school groups who are visiting as well."

Leading the charge on facilitating the programs is the lead guide from Haliburton Forest, Ted Ruttan. Ruttan has no shortage of guiding experience on the property, from canoe trips to canopy tours and everything in between, and is excited about the opportunity to add another experience to his lineup.

"I used to climb a bunch when I lived out west," he shared, "and now being able to offer this at Haliburton Forest is also growing me as a guide. Plus, I get to be outside every day in the winter."

Ruttan will lead groups under four participants, with Grant stepping in to offer support for climbers up to six in a group, which would be the maximum at any given time. The programs will be offered five days a week, from Wednesday through Sunday, with morning sessions and afternoon sessions daily.

"This is a high level, physical challenge," said Grant, "but there is no prior experience with ice climbing required to attend. Everyone can come and try it."

The season is set to start in mid-January, once the ice hardens down the rock wall safely for climbers. Grant hopes they will be able to climb until mid-March, to wind down with March break. Due to the layers of ice that form over the winter months, the experience can often carry itself longer than the average winter sport.

For more information or to register for ice climbing, visit www.haliburtonforest.com or www.yoursoutdoors.ca.

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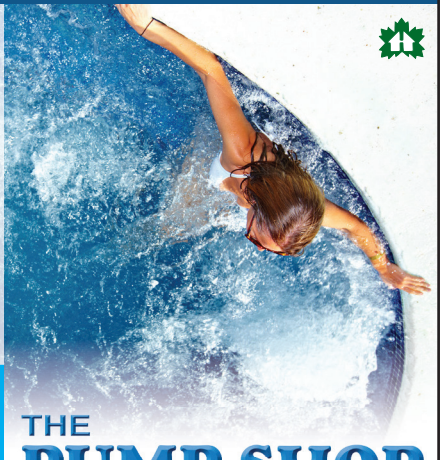
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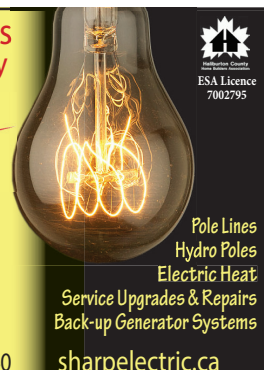
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A Foundation for the Health of the Highlands

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We look forward to hearing from interested applicants by **6pm Monday, December 18, 2023**
to
Melanie Klodt Wong, Executive Director
HHHS Foundation, mklodtwong@hhhs.ca

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530 RETIREMENT

Happy Retirement

Please join the HHHS Foundation team in wishing
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After 13 years of phone calls, donations, bears, memorial cards and 50/50 tickets... Carol has decided it is time for the next chapter.

We will miss the laughter and expertise she shares so willingly and hope that she takes time to enjoy her hobbies and her dedication to the Irondale community.

Thank you, Carol, for your years of service, hard work, and commitment to raising funds for the health of our community. May your retirement be filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

With gratitude and fondness from the Foundation and HHHS teams.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on behalf of Felice Mueller application will be made to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario for an Act to revive Qui Vive Island Club Inc. the Qui Vive Island Club Inc. Act 2023. The application may be considered by the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs. Any person who has an interest in the application and who wishes to make submissions, for or against the application, to the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs should notify, in writing, the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1A2. Dated at Portland, Oregon, USA, this 23rd day of November, 2023.FELICE MUELLER

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640 IN MEMORIAM

Mathews, Benjamin Daniel
Jan. 25, 1962 - Dec. 6, 1979
Beloved Son

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That tell our hearts are broken,
It's the silent tears in the after years,
When your precious name is spoken.
Time cannot stop the heartache,
Or even stop the tears,
Or take away the memories,
For someone we loved so dear
Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside every day,
Unseen, unheard, but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear,
If all the world were ours to give,
We'd give it all and more,
To see your loving face again,
Walking through our door.

Dad and Mom



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Merry Christmas from the ECHO-HO-HO!

THIS WEEK

Safe sledding

Snowmobilers are warned to stay off the ice
... see page 4

FEATURE

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME

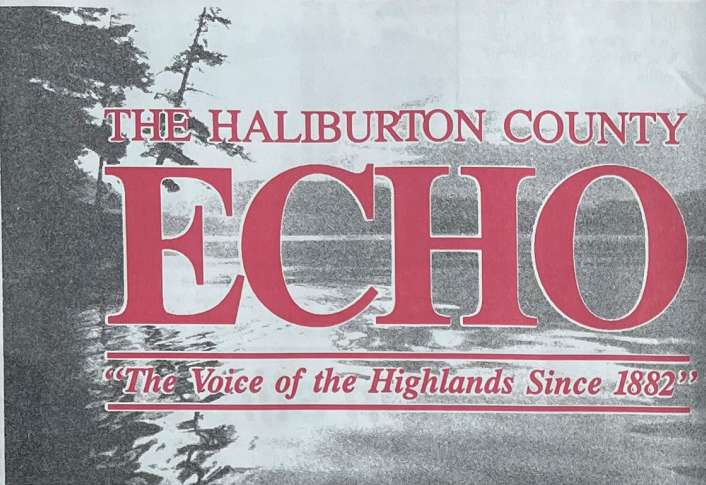
Ruth Still has written a book on the history
of Eagle Lake... see page 17

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

STORIES OF THE SEASON

In our special supplement we recount tales of
this special time

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1994



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO

"The Voice of the Highlands Since 1882"

Vol. 112, No. 45 • 64 pages • 70 Cents + GST = 75 Cents

Sherborne reeve is warden

■ **Ross Rabjohn**
gets the nod the
second time around

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

It was almost a case of "déjà vu
all over again."

Just like last December, on
Tuesday night the same two men
were in the auditorium of Hyland
Crest asking their fellow county
councillors to vote for them as
warden of Haliburton County.

Last year, the vote came down
to an eight-eight tie between
Lutterworth's Jim McMahon and
Sherborne et al's Ross Rabjohn.
To break the tie, a name was
drawn out of a box and
McMahon became warden.
(Rabjohn's deputy-reeve had
been unable to attend the meet-
ing, hence the even number of
county councillors.)

This year, there was not a tie
and it was Rabjohn who garnered
most of the votes, earning him
the distinction of being political
leader of Haliburton County for
the next year. Because voting is
done secretly, the final tally was
not made public.

Before the election, Rev.

Christopher Greaves addressed
county council and the various
county employees and ratepayers
gathered in the auditorium. He
asked God to bless all the county
councillors who have gone
before, as well as the ones now
serving. He asked that council-
lors be mindful of the needs of
their fellow Highlanders and
asked that God give them the
courage and guidance to support
and unite the county.

McMahon's bid for an unprece-
dented second consecutive term
as warden was endorsed by
Anson, Hindon and Minden
Reeve Jeanne Anthon and
Lutterworth Deputy-reeve Lisa
Mercer.

Anthon said extending
McMahon's tenure would pro-
vide the stability the county
needs. One year is an insufficient
amount of time to achieve all
goals and "the county would ben-
efit to have the same master at
the helm." She believed
McMahon would provide stabili-
ty and proven leadership.

Rabjohn was endorsed by
Snowdon Reeve George
Simmons and Monmouth Reeve
Keith Tallman.

It is important for the border
municipalities to know that the
county is aware of their needs

and concerns, Simmons says.
One of those municipalities is
Sherborne et al and having their
reeve as warden will be a sign
they aren't being neglected by the
rest of the county.

As well, it's important for the
warden to wear two hats: one as a
municipal representative and one
as a county representative and
Simmons believed Rabjohn
would keep the county perspec-
tive in mind.

It was then time for the candi-
dates to speak.

McMahon said that his time as
warden really flew. Last
December, he had a plan to
improve the quality of life for
county residents and his present
objective is to complete the real-
ization of that plan.

Borrowing from the comments
of others, McMahon described
himself as being hard-working,
unselfish, conscientious in his
daily visits to the county office,
straight-forward, honest and fair.
These observations are also part
of his self image, but above all, he
said, "I am a modest man who
wishes only to serve his commu-
nity, his family and his con-
science."

He credited his year as warden
as being a time of saving money.

Please turn to page 5

Wary Minden residents assured health support

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The Ministry of Health is com-
mitted to providing meaningful
emergency services in Minden as
part of the local hospital restruc-
turing project.

"Yes, yes, yes," said Sheri
Weisberg, responding to Stuart
Baker's friendly "grilling" at
Wednesday night's meeting of
the Acting Health Services
Board.

"The Ministry is 150% behind
this project and looks forward to
seeing it fulfilled," said
Weisberg, who works with the
Ministry's Institutional Health
Group in Toronto. "This is
looked upon as a model for rural
communities so we're fully sup-
portive."

Baker, who is chairman of the
board which has the task of
deciding how to spend the \$10.6-
million committed to the project,
says that there are four parts to
the restructuring process. Two of
them take place in Minden -
expanding Hyland Crest and
building an emergency unit at the
site - and two in Haliburton -
upgrading the existing hospital to
consolidate acute care beds and
building 30 new long-term care
beds.

Weisberg assured the board that
all four parts are integral to the
entire package.

"Is the development of a mean-
ingful emergency care unit in
Minden as important as the con-
solidation of beds?" Baker asked.

"Yes it is," Weisberg respond-
ed. "Minden and Haliburton are

equal."
"Are 30 long-term care beds as
important?" Baker asked.

"Yes," Weisberg responded.
"There's nothing that's ranked (in
order of importance.)"

"We're trying to create equity
for the entire population," added
Elaine Bishop of the Ministry's
Information, Planning and
Evaluation Branch.

Because there are some ques-
tions about what the emergency
unit will include, Minden area
residents have been nervous
about the future. Gerry Rome, an
Anson, Hindon and Minden
councillor and president of the
Staanworth Non-Profit Housing
Association, says the residents
are "extremely upset" about the
future of hospital services in

Please turn to page 3



REVERSAL OF FORTUNE:

Last year, Jim McMahon and
Ross Rabjohn both wanted to be
warden of Haliburton County.
After the tied vote, McMahon's
name was pulled out of a hat.
One year later, McMahon
wanted to be warden for a
second term and once again he
was vying for the honour against
the Sherborne et al reeve. This
time, however, the Sherborne
reeve was successful in getting
most of his fellow county
councillors vote. Here McMahon
helps Rabjohn put on the
warden's robe of office

The gift of giving:

Food and book drives capture Christmas spirit

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

About 200 Haliburton County
families will have something
more to celebrate this Christmas.

And hundreds of others who
have supported the 4Cs Food
Bank and the Haliburton Rotary
Club's first-ever book drive can

go into the holiday season know-
ing they've made a difference.

Bob Thompson, one of the
directors of the 4Cs, says food
and gift donations have been
coming in steadily to fill up the
special boxes the organization
puts together for families in need
each Christmas.

The Rotary's book drive has
been a great success as well, with
more than 500 new and like-new
books already collected, says
Rotarian Linda Shadbolt.

The books will be added to the
4Cs' Christmas boxes in an effort
to give people an added gift and
to promote literacy at the same
time.

While the 4Cs usually helps
feed about 30 families every
month throughout the year, there
is a huge demand just before
Christmas. The food bank
expects to hand out about 200
Christmas food boxes this week.

Each box is filled with about 50
pounds of non-perishable food
items, as well as a food voucher
and some hand-wrapped
Christmas presents.

Rose Barry and her sister Betty
Smith have been packing the
boxes over the past week or so
with the help of some additional
volunteers.

Mrs. Barry says there has been
a shortage in the number of pre-
sents donated that are suitable for
older children and teenagers, par-

tially because the number of chil-
dren benefitting from the 4Cs'
assistance has risen.

To make sure there will be pre-
sents in the Christmas boxes for
older kids and teens, as well as
the younger children, the Food
Bank has used some of the
money that people have donated
to the cause to purchase suitable
gifts.

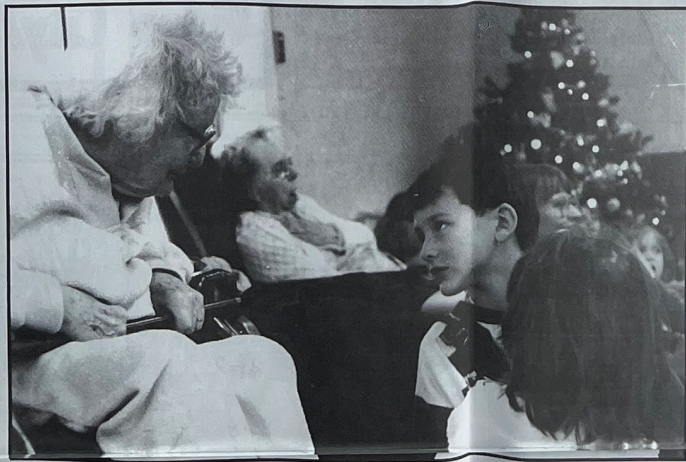
Thompson said the generosity
of the community continually
amazes him.
"I think of the other food banks
in different cities and the adver-
tising they have to do to get to
the people," he said. "It just hap-
pens here without any particular
drive ... Certainly this community
captures the Christmas spirit.
They're great."

Among the many associations,
service groups, businesses and
individuals that have been help-
ing out, he noted Sir Sandford
Fleming College which donated
the space it had rented out at the
Drag River Municipal Building
for the 4Cs to use to put together
all of its food and gift boxes.

Shadbolt was also surprised by
the overwhelming support of the
community.

"We've had a really terrific
response for a first-year effort,"
she said. "It's definitely some-
thing that we'll continue again
next year."

Please turn to page 2



CHRISTMAS SHOW: In between songs, Agnes Ainsworth takes a moment to chat with one of the Grade 1 children from Victoria Street Elementary Street School who visited Extensicare on Thursday to put on a Christmas concert. The students later handed out Christmas cards they had made for each of the residents.

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and editorial copy be submit-
ted by Wednesday at 5 p.m.

We will be laying out the
paper on Thursday but it will
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Meanwhile, the *Echo* staff
would like to extend our best
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